

Newsletter

May 2024

(Usually Published monthly September - June)

Vol. 41, No. 9

WHERE AND WHEN

Unless otherwise noted*, our Members Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesdays at 1:00 PM at the Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20906, 240-777-4999; ample free parking; covered parking in rear. Additionally, most meetings are captured on Zoom and recorded. Virtual access instructions can be found on Page 2, in the “Decisions -- This Way or That Way?” article.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES (Open to all)

Chapter:

- **Members Meetings:** May 21*, Jun 4*
- **Newsletter Input Deadlines:** May 25
- **Board Meetings:** Jun 5

Outside Events:

- **Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) -** Thursday May 16, 2024 at 7PM, virtual, contact Luisa Cardona at 240-777-8101 for link.

Our Facebook Page: NARFE Chapter 1892, Aspen Hill.

Chapter Webpage: <https://sites.google.com/view/narfe-chapter-1892/home>

Membership Report

Welcome new member, Roger Kohn! We are so glad that you decided to be part of Chapter 1892!

Chapter Elections

It's that time again—elections for our Chapter officers, so please submit the names of nominees for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer to reach the Nominations Committee by May 17. Yes, you can nominate yourself as well! You know you want to be more involved so now's the time! Voting takes place May 21.

Three ways to send nominations to the Nominations Committee Chair, Filomena Chau: Email: Bachjchauf@verizon.net; phone: 301-642-6741; or send a snail mail to 3514 Everton St., Silver Spring, MD 20906-4119.

President's Message

For this month, I am combining the President's Message with my State Legislation Report. With the 2024 state legislation session now having ended, the message I have transcends a report on the status of legislation in Annapolis.

The success of our efforts this legislative session must be measured not just by how many bills made it out of committee, but by how NARFE has been viewed by legislators during the legislative process and how that lays a foundation for success during the next legislative session in 2025.

The legislative process is like a slow-moving train with many steps along the way. What makes the 2024 session, so rewarding is the appreciation shown by legislators of our contribution to moving their bills forward. Legislators such as Delegate Seth Howard who reached out to us to support his legislation on tax incentives for purchasing long-term care insurance, and Delegate Robin Grammer who reached out to us to testify in support of his bills dealing with one-party consent for audio recordings to be admissible and increasing access to mental healthcare facilities, are just two examples of legislators reaching out to NARFE for its support. Add to this Senator Jeff Waldstreicher and his efforts on raising penalties on mail theft, and Delegate Vaughn Stewart on his efforts on long-term care insurance, who expressed their appreciation for our support for their bills with our testimony. It is one thing to receive a thank you for legislation that passed out of committee; quite another thing for our efforts to be recognized for legislation that did not.

The most significant thank you, of course, came from Maryland's Comptroller, Brooke Lierman, who sent a letter which states, *“Your dedication, expertise, and willingness to share your insights was instrumental to the Committee as they*

(Cont'd from President's Message on Page 1) discussed and shaped the final legislation." This bill did, indeed, become law. Specifically, it is House Bill 845/Senate Bill 1105 - Individual Income Tax Credit Eligibility Awareness Campaign, which implements a campaign by the Comptroller's Office to identify and encourage individuals to apply for certain already existing tax credits for which they are eligible and to which they are entitled but failed to claim. (The letter from Brooke Lierman to Paul will be posted on our website.)

Other bills which we supported which became law are House Bill 451/Senate Bill 676 - Tax Assistance for Low-Income Marylanders - Funding AND Senate Bill 202 - Department of Aging - Caregiver Expense Grant Program - which establishes a program in which a grant not to exceed \$2,500 may be awarded to a family caregiver for qualified expenses paid or incurred if the caregiver's federal adjusted gross income is \$75,000 if filing an individual tax return or \$150,000 if filing jointly.

Additional bills that made it out of committee and are positioned for full passage next session are the previously mentioned House Bill 290/Senate Bill 610 - Crimes - Interception of Wire, Oral, or Electronic Communications - Exception for Imminent Danger, which changes Maryland's current law requiring two party consent for audio recordings to be admissible in court, to one party consent if there is a good faith belief that an individual is in imminent danger of becoming a victim of a crime of violence, stalking, abuse, or a protective order.

Also, the previously mentioned Senate Bill 373/House Bill 318 - Criminal Law - Theft - Mail and Mail Depository Key which increases the current state penalties for mail theft to enhance the deterrence of mail crime. According to Senator Waldstreicher, the sponsor of this bill, this bill was positioned for full passage but had to address a procedural issue, not a substantive issue, and simply ran out of time. It is positioned for full passage next session.

Similarly, the Prescription Drug Affordability Act is also positioned for passage next session. This bill would have been passed this year, but for the

Prescription Drug Affordability Board's request for one more year to better prepare for the additional authority which the law would provide regarding pharmaceutical pricing.

Paul Schwartz, Co-President

Decisions -- This Way or That Way?

Do you want honest, reliable, and better information to answer the question, "Who are the best people to earn my vote to run the Country?"

The *Voters' Guide* produced, by the League of Women Voters, provides reliable, non-partisan information on folks running for office and about the questions on the ballot. How does the League do it and how can we be sure of the information?

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County will present information about its election work at our May 21st meeting. Speakers will describe the preparation of the *Voters' Guide* and its online version, VOTE411.org. They will also discuss the League's advocacy in favor of voting rights at the national, state, and local levels.

Join us: Tuesday, May 21, starting at 1 PM.

Please RSVP by 5/14 to 301-589-7465 or NARFEsrichards@aol.com so we can be sure to have a room large enough to hold us. When you come in on May 21, check at the front desk for our meeting's room number. Mark your calendars; tell your friends. Come, ask your questions, and enjoy refreshments!

How to attend this free meeting:

In person, join us at the Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Dr., Silver Spring (Wheaton), MD 20906.

Online, access the meeting via Zoom using a computer (best way), tablet, or smart phone. Just hit the link below.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82848562302?pwd=all0d3BBMXF5Y1NGRnpwNFZ2S0J4UT09>

Meeting ID: 828 4856 2302

Passcode: 236762

If you prefer, you can participate with **audio-only** by calling 301-715-8592. See meeting ID and passcode above.

Note: Meeting will be recorded and available on our website.

Chapter 1892 Leadership

Co-President.....Sarah Richards
 301-589-7465.....NARFEsrichards@aol.com
Co-Pres/State Leg/MD Fed. SLC Chair.....Paul Schwartz
 301-260-1903.....pksyanks@aol.com
Secretary.....Myron Chace
 301-330-4713
Treasurer.....Jim Bachmaier
 301-642-6742
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 301-330-4713
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NARFE PAC.....Bob Kammer
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Newsletter Editor.....Filomena Chau
 301-642-6741
Sunshine.....Minnedore Green
 240-839-7043
Alzheimer's.....Cathy Hobbs
 301-785-6782
Historian/Past President.....Rudy Volin
 301-598-2209
Special ProjectsDiane Boehr, Linda Jacks

April Pizza Party

(Edited from Myron Chace's Written Accounts)



From NARFE Aspen Hill and Wheaton/Glenmont Chapters, twenty-three members, guests, and friends gathered at the Stained-Glass Pub

located in Silver Spring's Wheaton/Glenmont area. A very warm, sunny day bolstered enthusiasm for coming together at what has become an annual social event on Aspen Hill Chapter's calendar.

Chapter 1892 Co-President Paul Schwartz during brief remarks reminded all that he has announced his candidacy for NARFE Region II Vice President. His announcement was enthusiastically received, and he noted voting will be later in the summer.

After eating, many people remained, catching up with reports of activities, family doings, hobbies, travels, and offering thoughts about current events. Several folks are already looking forward to this year's summer luncheons! (See article on page 4.)



Picnic Tuesday, June 4th, at Noon Wheaton Regional Park

Our Chapter 1892 meeting will be an outdoor picnic at Wheaton Regional Park in Picnic Shelter "G" on June 4th starting at noon (rain or shine). Our speaker will be **Delegate Vaughn Stewart** who will tell us what bills passed this year and what didn't, why, and what's up for the future. We've invited other chapters to join us, and the food will be provided. The cost is \$18 per person. We will also take a few minutes to install the new/returning officers. This is the last meeting of the year until September, so do join in the fun!

Please R.S.V.P. with your name and contact information, and send a check (\$18 per person) made out to "NARFE Chapter 1892" to:

NARFE Chapter 1892 Picnic
 3514 Everton St.
 Silver Spring, MD 20906-4119

The check must arrive no later than June 1, in order for us to purchase the food, etc.

The \$18 covers the shelter rental as well as food and other products, so food donations of your special dishes to add variety to the fare are welcome, but not required, for sure.

Wheaton Regional Park is located at 2000 Shorefield Rd., Silver Spring (Wheaton), MD 20902. Shorefield Rd. is off Georgia Avenue. To get to Picnic Shelter "G", take Shorefield Rd. till it dead ends in a circle. As you enter the circle, you take the first right turn down the road to a large parking lot toward the carousel. The first Picnic shelter sidewalk off the parking lot leads to Picnic Shelter "G". You'll be able to see us from the parking lot. There is plenty of parking and four handicap spaces near the Shelter.

This shelter was chosen to accommodate walkers and wheelchairs. Picnic Shelter "G" is only 30 feet from the parking lot on level ground with no steps to traverse. Restrooms are nearby with no steps to traverse. Shelter "G" is not far from the train station should folks want to take a ride on the train.

NARFE
Aspen Hill Chapter 1892
713 Richmond Ave
Silver Spring MD 20910

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NEXT MEETING: Decisions -- This Way or That Way? - Join us, Tuesday, May 21, at 1 PM - See Page 2.

Alzheimer’s Report

Research Opportunity Available – Lecanemab

The AHEAD Study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, and conducted at Georgetown University, is testing lecanemab in people who do not yet show thinking or memory problems, but who are at higher risk for developing cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease. Lecanemab is an FDA approved medication for mild cognitive impairment and mild dementia. The AHEAD clinical study (two separate trials based on the amyloid level in study participants) involves monthly or bi-monthly infusion or an investigational anti-amyloid treatment. The goal of the treatment is to slow the buildup of or to remove entirely the Beta-Amyloid protein that forms plaque accumulations in the brain. This clinical study needs volunteers who are 55-80 and do not have symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. For more information, call 800-243-2370 or visit AHEADstudy.org. Source: Alzheimer's Assoc. Trial Match

Fraud Alert

The inspector general’s office at OPM has posted a warning against calling a phone number once associated with the agency’s Employee Express FEHB enrollment site (888-353-9450), saying the number “is currently in use by fraudsters/bad actors who have practiced financial exploitation tactics.” **Do NOT call this number!**
Source: *Fedweek* April 23, 2024

Summer Luncheons

Back by popular demand! The Chapter Summer Luncheons begin June 11 at noon and will be held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday through September 10th. Contact Nina Chace to suggest restaurants and for more information. Call her at 301-330-4713 or email her at NinaGC@comcast.net. Detailed information will be available in June on our website under the events tab and in the June newsletter.